a multi-agency centre to effectively use intelligence inputs to detect and crack terrorist modules across the country;

(b) if so, the constitution, functions and *modus operandi* of the multi-agency centre; and

(c) the success achieved by the Centre so far in identifying the terrorist outfits operating in and around the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) to (c) In pursuance of the recommendations of the Group of Ministers on Reforming the National Security System, Multi-Agency Centre has been set up for synergizing the intelligence efforts of all central agencies and State police forces in the field of counter terrorism.

Incidents of fake encounters

1444. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cases of fake encounters by police and security forces have increased;

(b) the details of the fake encounters came to the knowledge of Government during 2001-02 and 2002-03;

(c) the causes of such encounters and the action taken against the erring personnel;

(d) the compensation paid to the family of deceased and those who sustained injuries in such encounters; and

(e) the steps taken to avoid recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) and (b) 'Law and Order' is a State subject. However, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has registered 116 complaints of alleged fake encounters in 2000-01 and 92 cases in 2002-03 (upto February, 2003).

(c) and (d) Even though 'Law and Order' is a State subject, NHRC has issued instructions to all State Governments to take appropriate action to prevent fake encounters including preventive measures. The Commission has recommended a total compensation of Rs. 10,60,000/- to the family of deceased and those who sustained injuries in fake encounters for the period from 1993 to February, 2003.

(e) The NHRC has issued guidelines/instructions regarding procedure to be followed in cases of death in alleged fake encounters. These guidelines were circulated to Chief Ministers of all the States/Union Territories.

Report on bonded labour in India

1445. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the report of human rights watch "Bonded labour in India";

(b) if so, what are Government's comments on the study; and

(c) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The report mentions about child labour in silk industry in India. However, no specific case about children being employed in the silk industry as bonded labour has come to the notice of the Government. The Government of India has enacted Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986. Section 14 of the Act provides for penalties for violation of the provisions of the Act. The Government has been monitoring the enforcement of the Act through enforcement machineries of the States/Union Territories/Central Government regularly. Further, steps for withdrawal and rehabilitation of child labour in silk industry have been taken by providing non-formal/formal education, vocational training, stipend, nutrition, healthcare etc. under the National Child Labour Project.